

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
December 17, 2003

A meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, December 17, 2003, in the City of Grass Valley Council Chambers, 125 E. Main Street, Grass Valley, California. The meeting was scheduled for 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Kerry Arnett, Drew Bedwell, Ann Guerra, Chet Krage, DeVere Mautino, *Josh Susman, *Robin Sutherland

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Dan Landon, Executive Director; Nancy Holman, Administrative Services Officer; Toni Perry, Administrative Assistant; Mike Woodman, Transportation Planner.

Standing Orders: Acting Chairman Krage convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 8:35 a.m.

*Chairman Susman arrived at 8:37 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: For discussion and possible action.

Executive Director Landon asked Chairman Susman to go to "CONSENT ITEMS" first and to provide Linda Stevens an opportunity to introduce the new NCTC commissioner from Grass Valley.

CONSENT ITEMS:

5. Certificate of Appreciation for Service on the NCTC: Linda Stevens.

Authorized Chairman Susman to sign the certificate of appreciation.

6. NCTC Minutes: November 19, 2003. *Approved.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett to approve the consent items. Commissioner Krage seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Linda Stevens introduced DeVere Mautino, Vice Mayor of Grass Valley. She stated Ms. Mautino had previously served as a commissioner and chair on the NCTC and had been following the commission's activities. She stated it was her pleasure to pass her responsibilities over to Dee. Chairman Susman presented Ms. Stevens a certificate of appreciation for her service on the NCTC.

1. Financial Reports: November 2003

Executive Director Landon stated that the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee program, a collection of mitigation fees from development, was now on track for the projections that were made when the program was established.

2. Correspondence.

- A. Magazine article from *Access-Transportation Research* at the University of California-Article entitled, "Older Drivers - Should We Test Them Off the Road?".

Commissioner Guerra stated this article is a reminder that it is important to have a meaningful alternative to driving. The article points out that age alone is not an indicator of someone's driving ability, nor is it an indicator of an individual's need for specialized transportation services.

3. Executive Director's Report:

➤ 3.1 Schedule For U.C. Berkeley Traffic Safety Evaluation Team

Executive Director Landon stated he had not yet received the date for the U.C. Berkeley traffic safety evaluation team to come to Nevada County to evaluate four intersections, including Highway 49 and La Barr Meadows Road. He stated he would keep the Commission informed of this activity.

4A. Caltrans District 3 - Project Status Report: Tom Brannon, Caltrans Project Manager.

➤ Dorsey Drive Interchange

Mr. Brannon stated that due to the lack of funds and STIP programming issues, the Dorsey Drive interchange schedule had changed. The new schedule shows PA/ED in 12/06, PS&E in 12/07, RTL in 7/08, award of contract in 12/08, and construction in the spring of 2009. It will take about two years to construct the interchange. The project is staffed and work is underway. The state's budget may cause additional changes to the schedule.

*Commissioner Sutherland arrived at 8:46 a.m.

➤ SR 49 Widening Project

Mr. Brannon stated the schedule for this project had been effected by the same factors as the Dorsey Drive interchange. The new schedule shows PA&ED in 12/06, PS&E in 12/07, RTL in 7/08, and award of contract in 12/08. This is the same schedule as for the Dorsey Drive interchange.

Mr. Brannon stated that a complete funding plan for the widening of SR 49 needed to be in the 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). A funding plan must be developed to show how to fully fund construction of a segment of the Highway 49 corridor. Mr. Brannon stated it was his goal to try to program an improvement around the La Barr Meadows Road intersection out of the money that was available in the current project (\$18,160,000.00). He reviewed the methodology that was being used to determine the project limits. He stated that if a fully programmed project does not go into the 2004 STIP, it would be likely all of the STIP funds available for the project would be lost.

Mr. Brannon stated that the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) required that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) be completed for the whole corridor before a segment of the highway could be constructed. A Commission discussion ensued regarding environmental clearance being required for the whole SR 49 corridor.

Chairman Susman stated some of the member agencies have updated their general plans and questioned if some of the information gathered could be used by Caltrans to complete a program EIR instead of a project EIR. Mr. Brannon responded that Caltrans would use as much of the information collected as possible.

➤ Truckee Signals and Roundabouts

Mr. Brannon stated a meeting had been held with Truckee staff to go over Caltrans signing plan for the project. Truckee's consultant, Greg Bickett, presented a counter plan. A meeting will be held to discuss the differences of the plans.

4B. SR 49 at La Barr Meadows Road Update: Ann Marie Robinson, Caltrans Planner.

Penny Watson, the owner of Sierra Foothill Real Estate, located on the corner of Highway 49 and La Barr Meadows Road, read her statement regarding the La Barr Meadows Road intersection. She provided the following two-step solution:

1. *Immediately reduce the speed limit to 45 mph, post speed limit signs, and MOST IMPORTANTLY, require the enforcement of the speed limit and ticket tailgaters.*
2. *Install a traffic signal at the intersection of La Barr Meadows Road and Highway 49.*

Ms. Watson stated she had a petition with five hundred twenty-seven signatures supporting these solutions. She stated that there were forty-three roads and driveways on Highway 49 between Alta Sierra Drive and just before the McKnight Way offramp, a four-mile stretch of road, and questioned how anyone could justify a speed limit of 55 miles per hour where there were so many intersecting roads. Ms. Watson stated she was confident a red light could be installed at the La Barr Meadows Road and Highway 49 intersection that would not contribute to additional accidents or bottleneck the flow of traffic. She said that the citizens who signed the petition wanted immediate action and solution.

The following is a synopsis of Ann Marie Robinson's presentation:

- ❖ The speed limit issue had been discussed before and it was not a realistic option to reduce the speed limit to 45 miles per hour. The CHP enforcing the current speed limit was the most viable option available.
- ❖ Installation of a traffic light had been discussed before. The intersection does not meet the criteria for a safety light and is not an option.
- ❖ Eliminating the left hand turn movement from La Barr Meadows Road onto SR 49 is an option, but would require much discussion. The cause of the accidents needed to be looked into.
- ❖ Flashing lights will be installed within the week.
- ❖ The owners of the Mountain Air Mobile Home Park are looking into reconfiguring their driveway to help resolve some of the problem.
- ❖ Brush has been removed along the roadside near the Mountain Air Mobile Home Park.
- ❖ Ms. Robinson would like to work with the mobile home parks in the area regarding driver education, but she needs support if that is the direction the Commission wants her to take.

A Commission discussion ensued regarding the concept of eliminating the ability to make a left hand turn from La Barr Meadows Road onto SR 49; lowering the speed limit; requesting CHP enforcement of the 55 miles per hour speed limit; and the need to review the causes of the accidents to ensure the possible solutions addressed the existing problems. Ms. Robinson stated she would contact the CHP regarding the speed limit issues discussed at this meeting.

Mr. Landon was directed to prepare a letter to Caltrans District 3 supporting Ann Marie's continued work with the mobile home parks and stating that her travel and involvement was essential.

ACTION ITEMS:

7. 9:00 A.M. Timed Item: Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing.

Chairman Susman opened the unmet transit needs public hearing at 9:50 a.m.

Executive Director Landon stated that this was an annual public hearing where the Commission received comments from the public as to what they believed were "unmet transit needs". No action would be taken today. NCTC staff will prepare an analysis of the needs identified, comparing them with the Commission's definition of "reasonable to meet". Staff will report back to the Commission whether or not there are any "unmet transit needs" that are "reasonable to meet", based on that definition.

The following is a synopsis of statements from this public hearing.

Ellen Persa: Director of the Neighborhood Center of the Arts, which works with the developmentally disabled adult population of the County. Ms. Persa asked that Telecare be allowed to increase its service by providing a bus to transport about nine of her clients each day.

Virginia Alton: Ms. Alton expressed her concern with the impact of Telecare's cuts on the disabled and elderly population who cannot afford a taxi or find rides to get to their medical appointments. She suggested that Telecare charge higher fees and suggested contacting the hospital to provide a bus for people to get to their medical appointments. Ms. Alton stated that people living in the Lake of the Pines area, who have doctor appointments in Auburn, could contact the Auburn CTSA for rides at a cost of eight or nine dollars one way.

Annie Salazar: Resident manager at Welcome Park, 740 South Auburn, Grass Valley. She stated she was representing her tenants requesting that the bus stop be put back at 756 South Auburn. Presently, the stop is four blocks away with no sidewalks available along the way. Most of her tenants had moved to Welcome Park because there had previously been a bus stop located there.

Bill Anderson: Lives on La Barr Pines Drive. He stated his mother, who lives at Sierra View Manor, likes to attend church, but is unable to because of the Telecare changes. Mr. Anderson stated he is a signer of the La Barr Meadows Road petition and was gratified to hear the Commission's response to Penny Watson's petition. He stated that the stretch of road between McKnight Way and Alta Sierra Drive is, in his experience, one of the most treacherous sections of road he has ever seen. Mr. Anderson stated he would be glad to confer with individual members of the Commission if he could assist in solutions to Telecare and to the road situation.

Jessica Jaskier: Works at Peace Lutheran Preschool. She would like Gold Country Stage Route 2 changed back to its previous schedule to enable her to get to work ten minutes early because the bus would come down her side of the street.

Harriet McKay: Resident of Nevada City. Ms. McKay stated that she believed the public was unaware of the fact that there are five criteria that establishes whether or not a particular unmet transit need is "reasonable to meet". She said it would be helpful to inform the public, by doing an article in *The Union* newspaper, as to why a much needed transit need could not be met. Ms. McKay stated that the ADA corridor needed to be expanded and was an unmet need that needed to be investigated.

Richard Lemon: Retired, disabled, legally blind Vietnam Veteran. Mr. Lemon stated that he lived one mile from the Telecare offices and one quarter of a mile outside the ADA corridor. He lives 4/10ths of a mile from Route 12, which is now being called a "commuter" line. Mr. Lemon stated he has heard that many people who live just outside the corridor could be assisted if it was expanded. By extending the corridor one quarter of a mile, he and his roommate could be accommodated.

Bobbie Warren: An IHHS worker, a caregiver. She stated that she spends all her time providing care to elderly people and that one lady she cares for can no longer go to church due to the changes

to Telecare. Ms. Warren stated that the corridor should be extended for those people who need socialization.

Chairman Susman closed the public hearing at 10:14 a.m.

Michael Woodman, Transportation Planner for the Nevada County Transportation Commission, stated that the unmet transit needs testimony received in the 2002/03 FY is being updated to reflect the recent fare increases, route changes, changes to the service miles and service hours. Updating the information will ensure he has the latest up-to-date analysis of the potential needs. This information will be included in the 2003/04 FY transit needs assessment with the needs received today. The draft assessment will be presented to the SSTAC the first week in January and then presented to the Commission at their January meeting.

Chairman Susman asked that the SSTAC be proactive in discussing the use of partnerships to assist in transit needs. He stated there might be organizations that have access to grant funding that could help fund or subsidize some of the transit needs.

8. Allocation Requests from the Town of Truckee

Executive Director Landon stated the Town of Truckee was requesting an allocation for \$365,000 of Local Transportation Funds for their transit and paratransit systems, and was requesting an allocation for \$21,945 of State Transit Assistance Funds. He stated that the claims were in order and requested adoption of Resolution 03-28 and 03-29 respectively.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett to adopt Resolution 03-28 and 03-29. Commissioner Bedwell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Allocation Request from the City of Grass Valley

Executive Director Landon stated Grass Valley was requesting an allocation in the amount of \$38,791 of Local Transportation Funds to be directed to the paratransit systems operated by Gold Country Telecare.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett to adopt Resolution 03-30. Commissioner Bedwell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett to adjourn the Commission meeting and begin the OPC meeting. Commissioner Bedwell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The NCTC meeting closed at 10:24 a.m.

Chairman Susman reconvened the NCTC meeting at 11:35 a.m.

10. Closed Session: Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957, Employee Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director, Daniel B. Landon.

Chairman Susman reported no action was taken in the closed session.

11. Staff Compensation: Executive Director

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett to adopt Resolution 03-31. Commissioner Sutherland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Arnett announced that tomorrow night was the dedication of the Amtrak Station in Auburn.

Commissioner Krage stated that he was convinced, after today's discussion, that a different approach was needed to accomplish a significant improvement at the La Barr Meadows Road intersection and Highway 49. Using the funding method that has to do with expanding the highway to its twenty or fifty year capacity is not going to get the solution that is needed now. He stated that what was needed was to get this project into the Caltrans safety program like the section of SR 49 north of Lime Kiln up to Pekolee Drive. Commissioner Krage stated he would like Mr. Landon and county supervisors to ask for a meeting with high-level members of Caltrans to discuss how to address this problem. He stated he did not see the solution coming about in the direction the Commission was currently going.

Mr. Landon suggested that he first meet with Tom Brannon to redefine the project to see if it could meet the requirements of a different funding program that might allow for earlier construction.

Commissioner Krage commented that Ms. Watson's statement there were forty-three encroachments in four miles between Alta Sierra and McKnight Way was powerful data.

Mr. Landon stated he would report back to the Commission in his Executive Director's Report if he and Tom Brannon were able to re-craft this project.

Chairman Susman wanted to know what the protocol would be if some benefactor contributed sufficient money to do a physical improvement at that intersection. He asked how to get through the bureaucracy if there was money made available to fix the problem.

Commissioner Krage stated that when you go after safety funds, projects happen a lot quicker.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 21, 2004 at 8:30 a.m., at the Nevada City City Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sutherland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Nancy D. Holman, Administrative Services Officer

Approved on: _____

By: _____
Chairman
Nevada County Transportation Commission